

preserving the body in spirits or formalin as well as the dried skin, in order that its anatomical characters may be investigated.

E. COMBER, F.Z.S.

BOMBAY, 22nd October, 1904.

No. III.—*SIMOTES SPLENDIDUS*.

In Volume XIII, page 537, "Miscellaneous Notes," is published a note by Captain Wall and myself "On the occurrence of *S. splendidus* in Burma or a probable new species." The specimen was a peculiar one, in that there were four præfrontals as well as internasals, and we were inclined to consider it an abnormal *splendidus* or a new species. I have now no doubt as to its being the former.

I have since seen two specimens of this snake, evidently rare, as the description in Boulenger's work "Reptilia and Batrachia" is from the single specimen at that time known. It certainly is a very rare reptile here.

All three specimens are from Upper Burma, viz., Sagaing, Ruby Mines and Yamethin districts. In the two specimens above referred to—one young, the other an adult—the internasals are four in number, and the arrangement is as before described, i. e., the median pair small and projecting back to the præfrontals. The præfrontals are in each specimen two.

In the young specimen the—

Ventrals are	...	174.
Subcaudals	...	35-37?
Scales	...	21.
Length	...	11½"
Tail	...	1¾"

As regards colouring, it agrees with that given by Boulenger except that the indentation in the spots before and behind are not as pronounced in the young as in the adult, and I cannot discern the faintest trace of a yellowish median line. There are 17 spots on the body and 3 on the tail.

On the 23rd October while returning to camp along a ridge, perhaps a 1,000 ft. elevation, I noticed, lying at full length and motionless on my path, a *Simotes* which I thought from the previous specimens must be a *splendidus*. It had recently sloughed and was indeed most beautifully marked. It made no attempt to move, though there was long grass a foot distant, until I struck it, when it dilated its neck in the manner some specimens of *T. stolatus* or *T. piscator* do when irritated, and hissed quite audibly, so much so that my tracker remarked it was like a Mwe-bwe (Russell's Viper), but not so loud. When I placed the stick close to its head, it struck. On arrival in camp the Burmans declared it was a very young python, no doubt owing to the beautiful marking.

Ventrals	...	175.
Subcaudals	...	43.
Scales	...	21.
Length	...	28¾"
Tail	...	4"

There are 16 spots on the body and 4 on the tail.

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RANGOON, November, 1904.